

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5802

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 0157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EINV, ASEAN, MY

SUBJECT: ASEAN THIRD ECONOMIC MINISTERS CONFERENCE

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ECONOMIC) MFA AND MALAYSIAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASEAN HAJI ALI BIN BADULLAH IS REPORTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT THIRD ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MANILA IN JANUARY WILL CLEAR ANY FOR RESTRUCTURING OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION MACHINERY, LAUNCHING OF AGREED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND INTRODUCTION OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AFTER MINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF SENIOR OFFICIALS RECOMMENDATIONS, PROGRAMS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.

3. MANILA CONFERENCE, INITIALLY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 1976, POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 1977 TO PERMIT OFFICIALS MORE TIME TO WORK OUT DETAILS.

4. ALI BIN ABDULLAH SAID THE THREE GROUPS CREATED AT SECOND ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN K.L. IN MARCH 1976 HAD EITHER UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLETED THEIR WORK OR WERE IN FINAL STAGES. THE GROUPS ARE:

1) AN EXPERTS GROUP TO STUDY SETTING UP OF AGREED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND FEASIBILITY OF OTHERS, 2) AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT FRAMES OF REFERENCE OF THE PROPOSED REORGANIZED PERMANENT PANELS ON ECOOMIC MATTERS, AND 3) THE SENIOR OFFICIALS GROUP ON PREFERENTIAL TRADING GROUPS.

5. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING 5 PERMANENT COMMITTEES WITH WIDER FIELDS OF COMPETENCE TO TAKE OVER FROM 8 PERMANENT COMMITTEES NOW DEALING WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. THE 5 PROPOSED PERMANENT COMMITTEES ARE TRADE, INDUSTRY, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, FINANCE AND BANKING, AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

7. ASEAN COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS WOULD ALSO STUDY CHANGES IN PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND WOULD MEET IN JAKARTA IN FEBRUARY FOR THAT PURPOSE.

8. REPORT OF EXPERTS GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT MANILA MEETING. ACCORDING ALI BIN ABDULLAH, EXPERTS ALSO CONSIDERING FEASIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL NEWSPRINT AND POTASH FACILITIES TO MEET ASEAN NEEDS, COORDINATION OF STEEL AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTION AND POSSIBLE COMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING INDUSTRIES WITHIN ASEAN.

9. MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO MANILA CONFERENCE WILL BE LED BY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY DATO HAMZAH ABU SAMAH.
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